

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln. No: To be assigned  
Applicant: David J. Zarbatany (et al.)  
Filed: Herewith  
Title: ENDOLUMINAL STENT HAVING A MATCHED STIFFNESS REGION AND/OR A  
STIFFNESS GRADIENT AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING STENT KINK  
RESISTANCE

TC/A.U.:  
Examiner:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith.

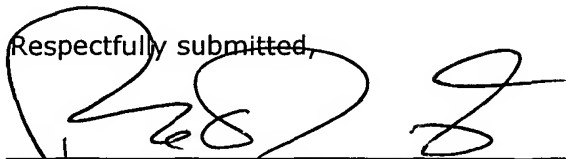
Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of the patents and publications listed on the enclosed PTO Form 1449 are not required to be provided, because they were cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in prior application Serial No. 09/442,192, filed November 16, 1999, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rex A. Donnelly, Reg. No. 41,712  
Attorney for Applicants

PFP/bgd

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449  
Transmittal Form

Dated: July 2, 2003

P.O. Box 980  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980  
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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby  
authorized to charge payment to Deposit  
Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated  
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**EXPRESS MAIL**

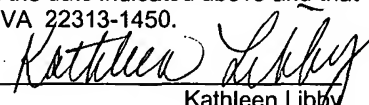
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Date of Deposit:

July 2, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Kathleen Libby

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